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FACSIMILE TRANSMISSIONS COVERSHEET

DATE: January 21, 2005

ATTENTION:

COMPANY: Examiner E. Robert
Art Unit 3732

FACSIMILE NO.: 703-872-9306

FROM: Brian S. Tomko

TELEPHONE NO.: (732) 524-1239

FACIMILE NO.: (732)-524-5575

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET: 16

COMMENTS: Re: USSN: 09/976,216
Our Ref.: HRT 278

Amendment (~~4~~ Pages)
Petition for Extension of Time (1 Page)

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Docket No. HRT0278

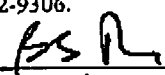
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Andrew H. Hancock
Serial No. : 09/976,216 Art Unit : 3732
Filed : October 12, 2001 Examiner : E. Robert
Title : Apparatus & Method for Off-Pump Cardiac Surgery

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being faxed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on January 21, 2005, to telephone number 703 872-9306.

Dated: January 21, 2005


Brian S. Tomko

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated July 21, 2004, the time for responding having been extended by petition, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this document.

Remarks begin on page 12 of this document.